

Bloomfield Gazette.

Office, At the Post Office.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1872.

Our Park.

One of the most attractive features of our pleasant village, and one that calls forth the admiration of all visitors, is *Our Park*. None more beautiful exists in any village that we have seen; with proper improvement it will far surpass anything of its kind.

Our wise fathers, when they built the church, in the centre of the town, laid out in front of it a large piece of land, which they dedicated to public use forever. It is, to-day, an invaluable inheritance, which their descendants should not fail to appreciate and improve. Half a century ago or more, some of the public-spirited citizens, prominent among whom was Mr. Zephariah B. Dodd, planted elms in front of the Academy, and on the lower end of "The Green." Afterward, at different times, the work was continued until the border was filled with graceful elms, with here and there a maple.

Some twenty years ago, the work was finished by setting out trees in order through the centre. All these have now attained such size, and assumed such graceful proportions, that few rural scenes equal that exhibited by our park in summer time.

In reviewing its history, our attention is called to the various names it has at different times enjoyed. Originally, it was "The Green," and appropriately so, answering Milton's phrase, "On the dry smooth-shaven green." It was "smooth-shaven," not by scythe of man, but incisors of horse and cow, and occasionally sheep; (for there were sheep in those days). Bright are our reminiscences of prisoner's base, foot ball, and tag; and above all, the good old fashioned game of base ball, played on those ample grounds. Then, unhampered by the thousand and one rules now laid down in the books, we "took our crack," ran the bases, and ran the risk too of a "shot" with the ball on any part of the body; which, if received "put us out." There was no fancy pitching then; nothing but "fair balls, slow," was allowed.

It next became a "Common," and common it was, not only to horses and cow for pasture, and boy for play; but for horses and wagons when the road alongside was impassable from mud. Hogs, too, occasionally rooted it, from the church at one end, to the "Liberty Pole" at the other.

That liberty pole must not be passed without notice; it was the last of its name, for its successor is a "Flag Staff." In 1852, it being decided that a more imposing support was needed for the Stars and Stripes on the Fourth of July, it descended from its proud position, traveled down Liberty street (to which it had given its name), and arose again near the canal in somewhat diminished proportion. It is, or was, not long since, still standing on the property of Mr. J. F. Randolph, a melancholy suggestion of what old foyles must expect.

And now it has received the name of "Park;" not quite appropriate, as yet, for that implies some small degree, at least, of artistic care and attention. These, we hope, it will ere long receive. Of the names mentioned, we must confess that the pleasantest as well as the greatest in our memory, is that of Green. Let us that pass.

One prominent idea in the minds of the fathers when they laid out wide the boundaries of the park, was its use as a military common. This is the term of the original deed: "A military common, for this purpose and no other." For many years it was used faithfully in accordance with the original design. Training days were a great institution; we wish the printer would allow us space to describe one, and immortalize some of the most prominent heroes. But the effect on our boys might be bad, by inspiring them with a desire for martial glory.

Military times were followed by the age of "posts." Two purposes were served by these useful articles; the borders were ornamented, and the wagons prevented from cutting up the surface. Many can remember the zeal with which our citizens carted chestnut logs to Mr. A. N. Baldwin's machine shop, to be converted into posts; and the cheerful alacrity with which they were set out and painted. Several years were required to complete this work; after which the land had rest for a season.

The story would not be complete, were the age of "paths" to be unnoticed. We do not refer to the one on the east side of the park, which speaks for itself; but to those built between the church and the parsonage. We say, "built," designedly. Trenches were dug, six feet wide by one or more in depth; the stones, often more than a foot in diameter, were gathered from the fields, thrown into the excavation, piled up till higher than the surface, and covered with a coating of dirt and gravel. When finished, they resembled the squares on a checker board, as no diagonal lines had been allowed to mar the symmetry of the work. Though not equal to pavement, they answered the purpose in view, as the ladies could work their way over them in wet weather, without losing their overshoes; which was sure to be the case if they should rashly try a shorter path "across lots."

And, now, what shall the next age be? for it is surely approaching. Let it be one of permanent improvements on a large and generous scale. For several years it has been more or less a matter of thought and conversation among many; and several plans have already been considered.

One of these is, to enclose the grounds as they now lie, with a substantial iron railing, and lay out the enclosure in plots of grass, somewhat like the Newark parks. Another is to lay out an avenue, beginning somewhere west of the church; thence to proceed south-easterly in a circular course, cutting off part of the Davis property, passing through Mr. I. C. Ward's door-yard, and continuing southerly and south-westerly, crossing Liberty street near the Theological Seminary, and entering Broad street near the house of Mr. Peters. All the space enclosed, between this avenue and Broad street, should be laid out as a park by some competent landscape gardener, and enclosed by a durable railing.

If the congregation of the Presbyterian church could be induced to enclose their grounds in a manner rivaling those of Montclair; and if the public school should continue the improvements so well begun; it would complete the work.

Such improvements would add immensely to the value of property, not only in the immediate vicinity, but throughout the town.

Respecting Names.

What's in a name? is often asked with a sneer. It may be answered—"much, decidedly more than in no name." Names are things. How can you conceive of a thing, and much less designate it, so as to make it clear to the apprehension of another, without its associated cognomen? When once introduced to a thing by its proper designation, the name alone, ever after, suffices to recall the form and attributes of the thing intended. Therefore we may say there is so much in a name that we cannot dispense with it, nor divest objects of their appropriate names, without serious inconvenience and loss.

We confess to be old-fashioned enough to wish to see the door plate with the name of the owner or occupant of the residence on the outside front door, or where the house stands back from the street, on the front gate. Nor can we see any sufficient reason for the abandonment of this good old practice. Why should not our citizens be independent enough of foolish and inconvenient usages, adopted from city fashions, and in things like this be a law unto ourselves, and make our own fashions?

In walking or riding through Montclair and Bloomfield, how gratifying it would be to know the dwellers in the homes we pass! and be able to go correctly to the house we wish to call at, without loss of time, and without annoying others by frequent inquiries at wrong places!

Many other arguments in favor of this can be adduced, but we do not wish to extend these remarks at this time.

Now, Mr. President, Chairman, or Moderator, we ask leave to offer the following motion:

Resolved, That the owners or occupants of

residences in Bloomfield and Montclair, whether town dwellings, villas or farm-homes, be respectfully requested to cause the full name of the head of the family to be placed on the outside front door, or the front gate, of their respective residences. The course of study is thorough, and the promise of usefulness is continually enlarging.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Those subscribers to our patron fund, who have not yet handed in their contributions, will oblige if they will make it convenient to hand it to Mr. Horace Dodd, or to one of the editors, before the middle of November.

We must still urge an increase of our *subscription list*, only fifty cents for the twelve numbers, and we can yet supply numbers from the beginning. We think, if we were not constitutionally inclined, we could promise them many times their money's worth. Subscribers have no postage to pay within the county. Send address with the money to Horace Dodd, or simply to BLOOMFIELD GAZETTE, Bloomfield, N. J. Look out for an important announcement in next number.

SIDE WALKS.—If there be any one thing in a village that pays more than another, it is the establishment of good sidewalks. It is one of the wisest sanitary measures, for it promotes health; it is economic, for it saves doctors' visits and shoe bills; it encourages sociability by making it possible and convenient to call upon one's neighbors and friends without losing overalls by the way, or carrying loads of dirt into their houses, and annoying them while there with our coughs, excited by wet feet; it promotes business, by rendering the stores more accessible; finally, it increases piety and benevolence, by removing the greatest obstacle to attendance upon evening meetings.

How strange that it should be so difficult to excite the people to move promptly and efficiently in this most obvious policy!

It is true *something* has been done in this direction, but much more remains to be done, and it is vastly important that it be done speedily; for the credit of our town, the safety of our health, the happiness of our homes, the interests of our exchequers. We do earnestly hope that all necessary measures will be taken to insure a *side-walk* in every street, in every part of the town, within the next year. *It will pay.*

We are happy to see that there is some chance for the side-walk on Washington street, as preparations are being made to lay a *grit* patch, and we learn that the resolute man who undertook so confidently last Spring to "engineer" it and put it through, has finally succeeded in reconciling Mr. Gerber to lay his portion over that dangerous embankment near the new stone bridge. "Let patience have its perfect work!" It is only six months since this work was commenced, and five out of fourteen patches will probably be down by the 10th! Are we not progressing under the skillful "engineering" aforesaid? Everybody asks, with mud-clogged feet and bedabbled dresses, when will the balance be laid? Echo answers, with hoarse voice, when?

In the German theological institution at Bloomfield, both the German and English languages are used, although the object is to prepare the students to preach the Gospel in their own language to their fellow-countrymen. The Rev. Dr. Seibert, late pastor of the Third German church in Newark, has relinquished his charge to devote himself to this growing seminary. Instruction is also given by the Rev. Mr. Guenther and other resident professors. The course of study is thorough, and the promise of usefulness is continually enlarging.

Obituaries.

We are again called upon to mourn, under the chastening stroke of Divine Providence, which has suddenly removed by death, two respected citizens of our town. *Mr. Henry E. Richards* died on Monday last, after a few hours severe illness, leaving a widow and six fatherless children to lament their unspeakable loss. Mr. Richards had been one of the most active, useful and devoted members of the Westminster Presbyterian church from its organization.

On Tuesday last, our village was startled by the tidings of the sudden death of *Mr. Lether Gallagher*, who was killed instantaneously in New York the same day, by the falling timber from the scaffolding of a new building in course of erection in front of which he was passing at the time. He also was an esteemed member of the Westminster church, in this town. Mr. Gallagher leaves a widow and two children to mourn their untimely loss.

BERKELEY SUNDAY SCHOOL.—We congratulate the school on the election of *Mr. E. W. Page* as superintendent in place of *Mr. C. M. Davis* resigned. Under his efficient management, supported by the present earnest corps of teachers, Berkeley will make rapid improvement. The following additional officers have been elected:—*Assistant Superintendent, Joseph K. Oakes; Secretary, Edward C. Adams; Treasurer, Pohleman Lyon; Librarian, William H. Matthews; Assistant Librarian, Herbert Farrand.*

HARMONIC SOCIETY.—A Musical Society was formed on Monday evening, Oct. 21, at the house of *A. T. Morris, Esq.*, under the above name. Its members consist chiefly of those who have some musical knowledge and skill; and they intend to make the Society attractive during the coming winter, by a series of musical parlor entertainments. These will occur about once in three weeks. The officers elected are: *Mr. E. Van Derwerken, President; Miss Fanny Morris, Secretary; Mr. G. H. Seymour, Treasurer.* The Society numbers about twelve members.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SABBATH SCHOOL OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—In this place, will occur next Sunday, November 3d.

A sermon will be preached in the morning, by the pastor, on "Sabbath School Work." In the afternoon, commencing at 2:30, the exercises will be varied, including an address by *A. O. Van Lennep, Esq.* Rev. *J. H. Vincent, D. D.*, will have charge of the evening service. Singing by the children.

MONTCLAIR LOCAL.

The spirit of improvement and enterprise is everywhere manifest in this beautiful town. The County Road Board have been all summer at work on the Bloomfield Avenue, running some six or eight miles from Newark, through Bloomfield and Montclair, to the top of the mountain in the direction of Caldwell. It is approaching completion, and will be a splendid road, widened, straightened, graded and paved in the most thorough manner with Telford pavement. Of course for the time being everything is topsy turvy, and apparently in the utmost confusion. Some people that we know of would have let things go as they might till the chief thoroughfare should be quite finished and rubbish cleared away. Not so with our enterprising citizens here. With a foresight which does credit to their sagacity, as soon as it was evident what would be the grade of the grand avenue, the owners and residents adjacent thereto set to work to adapt their property to the new grades, and by the time the avenue is completed, their yards, lawns, fences, etc., will look up upon the constant passers with blooming faces, pleasant smiles, and happy hearts.

At the end of the avenue, the "gate" of the church, the "Creed of the Bells," the reading was in a clear, ringing tone, and was a pleasant feature in the evening's exercises.

After singing, a cordial invitation was given to all present, to meet the call of the upper bell.

Miss Anna Sanzay, then read a poem by G.

upon the significant teachings of church bells, full of touching eloquence and genial humor.

Mr. W. P. Lyon, of the First Presbyterian church then spoke of the loving union of Christian hearts, and hoped that while the bell might be useful in calling many to the House of God, that its use may be supplemented by personal Christian efforts.

Mr. J. W. Snedeker, of the Methodist church, followed with a happy speech, complimentary to the Baptists, expressing his love for them, and for all who love the Lord.

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Bunge, the "Creed of the Bells," the reading was in a clear, ringing tone, and was a pleasant feature in the evening's exercises.

After singing, a cordial invitation was given to all present, to meet the call of the upper bell.

Here were large tables, supplied bountifully with good things, to which ample attention was paid.

The scene was as "merry a marriage bell," the guests and attendants all *so happy*.

Altogether it was a delightful affair, and one that soon to be forgotten by those who had the good fortune to be there.

J. W. S.

The Woman Question.

FROM A WOMAN'S STANDPOINT.

MISERA EDITOR.—As you have asked me to write for the GAZETTE, I enclose the following article which I secretly suspect, however, you won't publish, for being a man, I don't suppose it meets your views, but as it is a faithful exposition of mine, here it is. If you *desraud* the public by withholding it, don't you ever ask me to write for you again.

We can only instance here the elegant turf terrace which set off Mr. Frame's front grounds and the gently sloping lawn at Mr. Van Riper's residence, as well as the fine substantial cut-stone wall which supports the adjoining embankment, with its green terrace and its neat cottage. Other tasteful improvements springing up like magic in every direction will claim mention another time.

The Presbyterians are building a handsome and commodious parsonage for their pastor, Rev. Dr. Berry, at an expense of \$15,000.

The Congregationalists are building what is expected to be the finest church in this town.

The Post-office in Montclair is inadequate to the increasing business of the office. When will it take inspiration from the general spirit of progress pervading the town?

(Advertisement.)

H. E. TAYLOR, of New York, having taken the large and spacious store on the corner of Fullerton Avenue and Church street, in Jacobus' new building, and stocked it with first-class goods in Builders' and General Hardware, with a full assortment of House Furnishing Hardware, designs to sell at New York prices. Orders taken for anything in this line. Also—Agent for "Beicher & Taylor's Agricultural Tool Companies" Patents, Self-sharpening Feed Cutter, Union and New York Lever Feed Cutter, etc.

New Jersey-dom.

CANSEWICK—New Jersey had in 1860, only 672,035 inhabitants, while in 1870, the census showed 906,069, an increase of nearly 40 per cent. But everyone knows that this increase nearly all of it, or say 75 per cent, occurred from 1865 to 1870, which is to say, that during those five years New Jersey increased in population about 18,000, or at the rate of about 3,600 per year. Now, if the ratio should be continued during the next decade, New Jersey will have in 1880, a population of 1,000,000, a number now possessed by only seven States. We believe these figures will be exceeded.

STATISTICS.

EPITAPHS on a tombstone now standing in Passaic, N. J.:

When this you see remember me,
And bear me in your mind;
I am dead, but you will say,
Think of me as you find.

When I am dead and in my grave,
All my bones are rotten;
When this you see remember me,
Let me be forgotten.

On a tombstone at Closter, N. J.:

His quivering lips hung down,
His pulse beat slow and deep;
And death with a doleful groan,
He bore the world adieu.

FASSAIC, N. J., it is thought, will be able to boast of the handsomest Methodist Church in the State.

A previous revival of religion is reported in Pleasant Plains, New Jersey.

THE SYNOD OF NEW JERSEY.—There are nine Presbyteries in New Jersey, with 100 churches, 200 ministers, and 25,000 communicants. During the year there were added to these churches by certificate from other churches, 2,000, and by profession of faith, 3,224. There were 1,000 children and youth in the Sunday schools connected with the Synod.

THE NEWARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—which has just closed, was the first attempt in this country to exhibit upon a large scale the necessities products of a single city. Over three thousand persons were present, and the amount of money given was \$10,000. It was simply a true and proper exposition of the industrial resources of an infant city of 150,000 population. Over 100 exhibitors, including men, women, and children, gave a vast variety of separate articles, classified under the three general divisions.

The event was a success, and it is to be hoped that it will be repeated next year. The profits will be used for the study and elevation of the mechanic art.

The complete success of this meeting, it is to be hoped, will be attributed to the intelligence and skill of the exhibitors, and the unrivaled resources of intelligence, handicraft, and art.

The event of the year is claimed due to a foreign and independent source, and the profits will be used for the support of the school.

Mr. H. C. Spalding, a well-known citizen of Newark. The closing address, by the Rev. Mr. C. C. Parker, was a model of practical wisdom and good counsel.—*Christian Intelligencer.*

CHURCH BELL CELEBRATION.—The First Baptist church, Bloomfield, recently received from Mr. Henry Curtis Spalding, the free gift of a superior church bell. On the 12th of October, the bell was placed in the tower of the church edifice, and on Friday evening, the 18th of October, a sort of jubilation over the event was held.

The people of the village were called by the loud and sweetly-toned bell at eight o'clock.